

REMARKS

Claim 28 has been cancelled. Claims 1-9 and 22 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 22 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection of that claim under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 23-27 depend from Claim 22 and the Examiner's rejection of those claims is therefore also believed to have been overcome.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 10-15 and 16-21. Those rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 10-15 recite a method. As the examiner has acknowledged in her recitation of 35 U.S.C. §101, a "process" is statutory subject matter. Similarly, Claims 16-21 recite an "apparatus," which is also statutory subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §101 accordingly.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang (U.S. Patent No. 7,062,553), in further view of Colson (U.S. 2003/0128229). The rejections are respectively traversed.

As amended, independent Claim 1 recites "quantify[ing] damages avoided by one or more blocked attacks." Neither Liang, nor Colson, whether considered individually or in combination, disclose this limitation.

As with Claim 1, independent claims 10, 16, and 22 recite "quantifying damages avoided by one or more blocked attacks" and are believed to be allowable accordingly.

Claims 11-15, 17-21, and 23-27 depend from Claims 10, 16, and 22, respectively, and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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